GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2818
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2000
PRODUCTION OF HANDICRAFT PRODUCTS
MONI KUMAR SUBBA

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assam and other North-eastern States have a rich handicraft industry;

(b) if so, the production of handicraft products in the country, particularly in North-eastern States during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise and product-wise;

(c) the steps taken/being taken to promote this industry in the region;

(d) the annual export of such products from North-eastern States, State-wise; and

(e) the steps contemplated to promote such export further?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Handicrafts being a tiny cottage sector and widely dispersed, no authentic data on production of handicrafts State-wise in the country is available.

(c): The following steps have been taken and are being taken to promote and develop the handicrafts industry in the country including in the North Eastern Region.

(i) Training for upgradation of skills of the existing craft persons and imparting skills to new crafts persons.

(ii) Design and technological Development.

(iii) Setting up of Craft Development Centres and Common Facility Service Centres in identified craft pockets.

(iv) Exhibition and Publicity.

(v) Revival of Languishing Crafts.

(vi) Web-based Geographical Information System on handicraft.

(vii) Setting up of Urban Haat and

(viii) Propagation and Conservation of Cane & Bamboo species etc.

(d): No state-wise export data is maintained. However the total export of handicrafts including hand-knotted carpets from the country which include North-eastern States during 1999-2000 has been to the tune of Rs.8059.63 crores.

(e): The steps taken to promote export of handicrafts from the country include: organisation of buyer - seller`s meet; overseas publicity; organisation of workshops on design development; export marketing and packaging etc; participation in various international fairs; sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad and organisation of Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fairs (Autumn and Spring) and Indian Carpet Expo by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts and Carpet Export promotion Council respectively annually at New Delhi.